

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An information processing method for storing binary data and metadata related to the binary data into a storage medium, comprising:

- 5           an allocation step of allocating a first storage area for metadata in advance on said storage medium;
- a first storage step of allocating a metadata storage area for storing said metadata from said first storage area allocated at said allocation step, and
- 10          storing said metadata into said metadata storage area;
- a second storage step of storing binary data related to said metadata into a second storage area other than said first storage area on said storage medium; and
- 15          a third storage step of storing link information that links said metadata stored in said first storage area with said binary data stored in said second storage area, in correspondence with said metadata, into said first storage area,
- 20          wherein at third storage step, said link information is stored into an area adjacent to an area where said metadata is stored.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein said
- 25          adjacent area is a sector next to the area where said metadata is stored.

3. The method according to claim 1, wherein at said third storage step, an adjacent area having a fixed length is allocated, and said link information is stored in the area.

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4. The method according to claim 1, wherein said link information is described as a path and a file name of said binary data.

10 5. The method according to claim 1, wherein said link information is a head sector number of an area where said binary data is stored.

6. The method according to claim 1, further  
15 comprising a registration step of registering link information, that links said metadata stored in said first storage area with said binary data stored in said second storage area, in a database.

20 7. The method according to claim 1, wherein said metadata and said binary data are managed as one file.

8. The method according to claim 1, wherein said metadata and said binary data are managed as different  
25 files.

9. The method according to claim 1, wherein at said

allocation step, said metadata storage area is allocated in a portion in said storage medium that can be accessed at a high speed.

- 5 10. The method according to claim 9, wherein said storage medium is a magneto-optic disk, and wherein an inner radial side of said magneto-optic disk is allocated as said metadata storage area.
- 10 11. The method according to claim 1, wherein at said allocation step, said metadata storage area is allocated by generating an area file having a size the same as that of said metadata storage area and holding the file on said storage medium.
- 15 12. The method according to claim 11, wherein at said first storage step, said area file is deleted, then said metadata is stored from a start position of an area where said file has been stored, and a remaining area of
- 20 said metadata storage area following storage of said metadata is held again as an area file.
13. The method according to claim 1, wherein at said allocation step, said first storage area is allocated in
- 25 a directory where said binary data is stored.
14. The method according to claim 1, wherein at said

allocation step, said first storage area is allocated in a directory different from a directory where said binary data is stored.

5 15. The method according to claim 13, wherein at said first storage step, an area necessary for storing each metadata is located in the first storage area allocated at said allocation step.

10 16. The method according to claim 1, wherein said metadata includes description of information specifying related binary data.

17. The method according to claim 1, wherein said  
15 metadata is described in a predetermined data description language.

18. The method according to claim 17, wherein said predetermined data description language is any one of  
20 XML (Extensible Markup Language), SGML (Standard Generalized Markup Language) and TIFF (Tagged Image File Format).

19. The method according to claim 1, wherein said  
25 metadata abides by the DIG35 standard.

20. The method according to claim 1, wherein said

binary data is at least one of still image data, video data, sound data and music data.

21. The method according to claim 1, wherein said  
5 storage medium is any one of a magneto-optic disk, a floppy disk, a memory card and a hard disk.

22. An information processing apparatus for storing  
binary data and metadata related to the binary data into  
10 a storage medium, comprising:

allocation means for allocating a first storage  
area for metadata in advance on said storage medium;

first storage means for allocating a metadata  
storage area for storing said metadata from said first  
15 storage area allocated by said allocation means, and  
storing said metadata into said metadata storage area;

second storage means storing binary data related  
to said metadata into a second storage area other than  
said first storage area on said storage medium; and

20 third storage means for storing link information  
that links said metadata stored in said first storage  
area with said binary data stored in said second storage  
area, in correspondence with said metadata, into said  
first storage area,

25 wherein said third storage means stores said link  
information into an area adjacent to an area where said  
metadata is stored.

23. The apparatus according to claim 22, wherein said adjacent area is a sector next to the area where said metadata is stored.

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24. The apparatus according to claim 22, wherein said third storage means allocates an adjacent area having a fixed length, and stores said link information in the area.

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25. The apparatus according to claim 22, wherein said link information is described as a path and a file name of said binary data.

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26. The apparatus according to claim 22, wherein said link information is a head sector number of an area where said binary data is stored.

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27. The apparatus according to claim 22, further comprising registration means for registering link information, that links said metadata stored in said first storage area with said binary data stored in said second storage area, in a database.

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28. The apparatus according to claim 22, wherein said metadata and said binary data are managed as one file.

29. The apparatus according to claim 22, wherein said metadata and said binary data are managed as different files.

5 30. The apparatus according to claim 22, wherein said allocation means allocates said metadata storage area in a portion in said storage medium that can be accessed at a high speed.

10 31. The apparatus according to claim 30, wherein said storage medium is a magneto-optic disk, and wherein an inner radial side of said magneto-optic disk is allocated as said metadata storage area.

15 32. The apparatus according to claim 22, wherein said allocation means allocates said metadata storage area by generating an area file having a size the same as that of said metadata storage area and holding the file on said storage medium.

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33. The apparatus according to claim 32, wherein said first storage means deletes said area file, then stores said metadata from a start position of an area where said file has been stored, and again holds a remaining  
25 area of said metadata storage area following storage of said metadata as an area file.

34. The apparatus according to claim 22, wherein said allocation means allocates said first storage area in a directory where said binary data is stored.

5 35. The apparatus according to claim 22, wherein said allocation means allocates said first storage area in a directory different from a directory where said binary data is stored.

10 36. The apparatus according to claim 34, wherein said first storage means allocates an area necessary for storage to each metadata in the first storage area allocated by said allocation means.

15 37. The apparatus according to claim 22, wherein said metadata includes description of information specifying related binary data.

38. The apparatus according to claim 22, wherein said  
20 metadata is described in a predetermined data description language.

39. A control program for a computer to execute an information processing method for storing binary data  
25 and metadata related to the binary data into a storage medium, wherein said information processing method comprising:



an allocation step of allocating a first storage area for metadata in advance on said storage medium;

a first storage step of allocating a metadata storage area for storing said metadata from said first  
5 storage area allocated at said allocation step, and storing said metadata into said metadata storage area;

a second storage step of storing binary data related to said metadata into a second storage area other than said first storage area on said storage  
10 medium; and

a third storage step of storing link information that links said metadata stored in said first storage area with said binary data stored in said second storage area, in correspondence with said metadata, into said  
15 first storage area,

wherein at third storage step, said link information is stored into an area adjacent to an area where said metadata is stored.

20 40. A storage medium holding a control program for a computer to execute an information processing method for storing binary data and metadata related to the binary data into a storage medium, wherein said information processing method comprising:

25 an allocation step of allocating a first storage area for metadata in advance on said storage medium;

a first storage step of allocating a metadata

storage area for storing said metadata from said first storage area allocated at said allocation step, and storing said metadata into said metadata storage area;

a second storage step of storing binary data  
5 related to said metadata into a second storage area other than said first storage area on said storage medium; and

a third storage step of storing link information that links said metadata stored in said first storage  
10 area with said binary data stored in said second storage area, in correspondence with said metadata, into said first storage area,

wherein at third storage step, said link information is stored into an area adjacent to an area  
15 where said metadata is stored.